

along with the state buildings across the state that are not necessarily on an educational campus. So I do have mixed feelings this morning about vote...I'm going to vote for this because some way or another we have to get those computers to understand the year 2000 is coming, and not being a computer expert, but at least I understand how to do a few things on a computer, it just seems like machines have taken us over, technology has taken us over. And it's wonderful that we have the technology, but it stills costs so much. And the other thing I share, I share Dan Lynch's concerns about the consultants, because consultants are a way to get around certain requirements. If you have full-time employees then you pay benefits and so on, so we contract out, quite often, with consultants to do certain jobs and it costs a lot of money. The other thing, I'm pleased that Dan keeps at that about the consultants. We have to keep looking at that. And then...so this is...consultants are going to run this, that is the only way you'll ever get it done, computer consultants who know how to program and do all the things that have to be done to get those computers to turn over to 2000 and not go back to 1900. I know there's a lot of people around who talk like maybe they'd like to go back to 1900. But let me remind you that indoor plumbing, in 1900, was not the norm in a lot of homes. So we don't want to go back to 1900, we got to go to 2000. So some way or another we have to figure out, to come up with the money to...and spread it out so we can get this done. And 2000 is only three and a half years away, really, not very long before we'll get there. So I just wanted to voice those thoughts. I think we do have to stop...take...adding to the cigarette tax all the time because we...

SPEAKER W. THEM: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...eventually, I guess, if more people stop smoking, that money will go down anyway. So we'd have to come to grips with figuring out a source for all these things that state government needs to continue to deliver services. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Cudaback, followed by Senator Maurstad and Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker and members, as the Speaker alluded to, maybe Senator Wehrbein (sic) ought to have an "S" on